

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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PART I

THE OFFICERS' CLUB (DOM OFITSEROV) IN WEISSENFELS

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2. STAFF OF DOM OFITSEROV

[redacted] the following personnel worked at the Dom Ofitserov:

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a. Soviet Military Personnel

Lieutenant Colonel Povarov (fnu) - Officer in charge (Nachalnik Doma Ofitserov). Wore infantry shoulder-boards. [redacted]

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Major Kuptsov (fnu) - Chief instructor. Wore infantry shoulder-boards. [redacted]

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Captain Grigoriy Burlakov - Instructor in the Culture and Art Section (Kulturno-Khudochestvennaya Chast). [redacted]

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Major Yukhnenko - C.O.'s deputy for administrative affairs (Zamestitel Nachalnika po khozyaystvenno-administrativnoy chasti). [redacted]

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Lieutenant Ivan Alekseyevich Shulzhenko - Paymaster (Nachfin). Wore quartermaster shoulder-boards. [redacted]

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b. Soviet Civilian Personnel (Volnonayemyye)

Mariya Vasilevna Smulskaya - Secretary and cashier. [redacted]

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Lyubov Fomina - Storekeeper (Zavsklad). [redacted]

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Vasiliy Chizh - Bookkeeper.

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c. Soviet Other Ranks

There were 2 drivers, 2 cinematographers, 1 artist, 1 carpenter, all of whom had been transferred from normal line units (Stroyevyye Chasti).

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a. Voyenno-Massovaya Rabota ("Mass military work") - consisted of:

- (1) The planning and arranging of two lectures monthly, one on military subjects, the other on education, for all officers of the Weissenfels garrison.

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lectures on the following 2 subjects:

- (a) "Organization and methods of defensive warfare at night in conditions when atomic weapons are used" ("Organizatsiya i sposoby vedeniya oboronitelnogo boya nochyu v usloviyakh primeneniya atomnogo oruzhiya").
- (b) "To live and learn according to regulations is the duty of every Soviet soldier" ("Zhit i uchitsya po ustavam -- obyazannost kazhdogo sovetskogo vojna").

No lectures on these subjects actually took place, as suitable lecturers could not be found at the times required.

- (2) The planning of special military films. These were shown about once weekly, after discussion with and suggestions from the H.Q. of 174 Guards Rifle Regt., and on the basis of a list of films supplied by the Army Film Unit (Kinobaza), Weimar. Some of the films shown were:

- (a) Tank Maneuvering in Ascent and Descent (Vozhdeniye tankov na podeme i spuske)
- (b) Guard Duty (Karaulnaya Sluzhba)
- (c) Mode of Instruction of Scouts-Observers (Metodika obucheniya razvedchika-nablyudatelya)

b. Sportivno-Massovaya Rabota ("Mass sports work") - consisted of:

- (1) The planning and arranging of sporting events, such as football and volley-ball, between local army units, or between a Weissenfels team and other teams of the 57 Guards Rifle Division.
- (2) The supervision of a room of military propaganda and sporting photographs, (Kommuna Boyevoy Slay).

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PART IIINTERPRETERS IN THE SOVIET ARMY

Each Soviet Army unit in Germany from the level of regiment upwards is supposed to have at least one Soviet interpreter of the German language. Every Komendatura also has such an interpreter on its staff. Several interpreters are usually attached to the Osobyi Otdel (Special Section) intelligence units.

RECRUITMENT

Interpreters in Germany are largely recruited from among the Soviet forces stationed there - from officers down to sergeants. Announcements of preliminary interpreter examinations are made periodically in most units, and volunteers are invited. Candidates must have had at least 10 years' schooling. There is an upper age limit of [] 32 years. Both men and women are eligible, but there is naturally a preponderance of the former.

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EXAMINATIONS

If the preliminary examination is passed satisfactorily, candidates are given 2 months in which to prepare themselves for the entrance examination (Osnovoy Konkurs) for the Military Institute of Foreign Languages (Voennoy Institut Inostrannykh Yazykov), Moscow. Interpreters take a 2-year course at this institute, which includes other subjects. After completion of the course, they are then directed to work. The Soviet Army in Germany and Austria send a list of their requirements annually to the Institute. [] interpreters are required annually in Germany [] as far as Komendaturas were concerned the number for 1953 was 300.

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REPLACEMENT BY CIVILIANS

Interpreters supplied from the Military Institute of Foreign Languages (subordinate to the Dept. of Higher Education of the Army - "Otdel Vuzov") to the Army in Germany, were given the military rank of officer, although they sometimes wore civilian clothes. In the autumn of 1954, however, an order was issued to the effect that all military interpreters should be replaced not later than 1.5.55 by civilian interpreters. []

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[] The interpreter at the Nordhausen Komendatura, Lieutenant Bubnovskiy (see second paragraph below) []

[] was due for transfer either to the district Komendatura (Okruzhnaya Komendatura) at Erfurt or the group Komendatura section (Komendantskiy Otdel Gruppy) at Wunsdorf. The main reason for the a/m order was []

[] economic, as civilian interpreters would be paid less. Replacement by civilians would also free military interpreters for other more normal military duties or enable them to be demobilized.

LANGUAGES

[] the Institute of Foreign Languages. [] practically all languages, including Asian and probably African, are taught there. Students must qualify in at least 2 foreign languages, one of which is regarded as basic. Language teachers are also trained at the Institute, and have a longer course of

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five years, which includes other subject, such as political economy, Marxism/Leninism, and the art of war (Voyennoye Iskusstvo). Many of the students who qualify as teachers are sent to military academies, such as the Suvorov and Nakhimov ones. [redacted] apart from military candidates from the Army in Germany and Austria, some of the students are recruited from civilian sources. Interpreters for the Osobyi Otdel's of the Army are [redacted] drawn from among the normal students, but are particularly well vetted first.

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Soviet Film on Atomic Warfare

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The film opened with a picture (not a drawing) of the light atomic bomb, weighing 50 kg. It was of the gun type in which two hemispheres of uranium [redacted] were brought into contact by an explosion.

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[redacted] the film showed 10 tests, but the number would be less if some of the shots in the film were different views of one and the same test. In any case, there were several explosions, including air bursts, surface bursts, and underground bursts. [redacted]

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The terrain was taiga (sub-coniferous) and [redacted] the test area was a square of about 10 km. side, with a stony or sandy soil. There were no trees in this area, and no signs of woodland having been cleared. The wooded country beyond the square was flat [redacted] there were no hills, even low ones.

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Troops appeared in some of the shots; they appeared to wear markings the same as, or similar to, those of chemical warfare troops. Black shoulder-boards were mentioned [redacted]

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[redacted] the shoulder-boards must have been of a color to show dark in a black-and-white film. The troops were not M.V.D. or K.G.B. troops. There were no troops dug in for shelter.

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Among the objects which were exposed to test the effect of the explosion on them were dogs, sheep, and motor lorries. The animals were tethered.

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the lorries were Soviet ones.

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